



**THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON**  
FACULTY OF THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

**‘HISTORY OF PEYOTE’**  
**MIKE JAY, Writer**



GIDEON DE LAUNE LECTURE

**6pm, Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020**  
**Apothecaries Hall, Black Friar’s Lane, London EC4V 6EJ**

Mike Jay is an author and curator who has written widely on scientific and medical history. His books on psychoactive drugs include *High Society: mind-altering drugs in history and culture* (Thames & Hudson 2010), which accompanied the exhibition he curated with Wellcome Collection, and *Mescaline: a global history of the first psychedelic* (Yale University Press 2019). He is a research affiliate at the UCL Health Humanities Centre.

The peyote cactus (*Lophophora williamsii*) has been used in its native Mexico for healing, divination and magic since pre-Hispanic times. During the late nineteenth century it was adopted by the Plains tribes of the Southwest USA as a medicine and sacrament. At the same time it attracted the interest of pharmaceutical companies, and in 1893 it was brought to market as a tincture by Parke, Davis. It failed to find a defining application in western pharmacy, but within the more broadly conceived ‘medicine’ of the Native American Church it has established itself as a powerful therapeutic.

**Library open from 5pm. Refreshments from 5:30pm.**

**Join us for a subscription buffet supper after the lecture:**

Faculty Members £25 Non-members £30 Students £10

For those attending the lecture, a suggested voluntary donation (£5 members, £10 non-members) to support the Faculty would be most welcome. Gift aid envelopes will be available

Please book with Maria Ferran, Faculty Manager, by 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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